REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been canceled. Claims 21, 22, and 23 have been added. Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 16-20 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found in, but is not limited to, Figures 1-4 and pages 4-14 of the specification. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-23 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of Claims 1, 8, and 15. This objection is now moot since Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. Section 112, First Paragraph and Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 1, 8, and 15 prompted the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, First Paragraph and Second Paragraph. These rejections are now moot since Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,757,897 (hereafter Shi). These rejections are now moot since Independent Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled.

Dependent Claims 2-5 now depend from new Independent Claim 21.

Dependent Claims 9-12 now depend from new Independent Claim 22. New

Independent Claims 21-22 recite the limitation, "selecting a next task to execute

based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations

representative of execution progress of said tasks." It is respectfully submitted

that Shi fails to disclose selecting a next task to execute based on the priority

values of the tasks and based on status designations representative of execution

progress of the tasks, as in Independent Claims 21-22. While Figures 2 and 3 of

Shi describe tasks as being in a yield queue or a ready queue and being

selected according to a task scheduling algorithm, Shi is silent as to status

designations representative of execution progress of the tasks and selecting of a

task based on status designations.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 21-22 are

not anticipated by Shi and are in condition for allowance. Moreover, Dependent

Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are also allowable for depending from allowable

Independent Claims 21 and 22, respectively.

Further, Shi fails to disclose status designations that include executing,

waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted, as in Dependent Claims 2 and 9.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 6-7, 13-14, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Shi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,757,897 (hereafter Shi), in

view of Abgrall, U.S. Patent No. 6,401,202 (hereafter Abgrall). These rejections

are now moot since Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been canceled.

Dependent Claims 6-7 now depend from new Independent Claim 21.

Dependent Claims 13-14 now depend from new Independent Claim 22.

Dependent Claims 16-20 now depend from new Independent Claim 23.

As discussed above, new Independent Claims 21-22 are allowable over Shi. Moreover, Abgrall fails to disclose selecting a next task to execute based on the priority values of the tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of the tasks, as in Independent Claims 21-22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 21-22 are patentable over the combination of Shi and Abgrall and are in condition for allowance. Moreover, Dependent Claims 6-7 and 13-14 are also allowable for depending from allowable Independent Claims 21 and 22, respectively.

New Independent Claim 23 recites the limitation, "wherein said BIOS is operative to select a next initialization task to execute based on said priority values of said initialization tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said initialization tasks." It is respectfully submitted that Shi and Abgrall fail to disclose BIOS is operative to select a next initialization task to execute based on the priority values of the initialization tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of the initialization tasks, as in Independent Claim 23.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 23 is patentable over the combination of Shi and Abgrall and is in condition for allowance. Moreover, Dependent Claims 16-20 are also allowable for depending from allowable Independent Claim 23.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections and objections. All remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-23) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-23) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _11/10/2008_
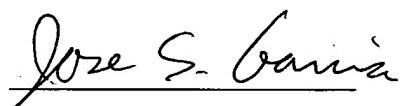
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